The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Hard workers are usually honest. Industry lifts them above temptation.—Bovee.

WHOLE NO. 846. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1927. VOL. 17, NO. 15.

WILL AMERICAN COAL OWNERS TAKE HEED?

Bituminous coal owners are resisting employes' attempt to secure a standard wage scale. Coal owners demand lower wages. They favor a rate based on the non-union fields of West Virginia and Kentucky.

The unionists decline to engage in cut-throat competition with non-union employers, who will maintain lower rates though employes be starved.

These coal owners should profit by conditions in the British coal industry.

The British miners lost their strike, last year. Their defeat was complete. Wages were cut, the work day increased one hour and victimization is general.

The coal owners were in control. Intoxicated by their triumph, they rode, booted and spurred, to their fall.

They rejected every suggestion by employes to stabilize this industry. They ignored recommendations of government coal commissions.

Following the miners' defeat the owners applied their autocratic power and flooded foreign markets with their cheaply-produced commodity.

France has checked this program by placing an embargo on British coal, and these employers are aghast at the loss of their best European market.

A survey of domestic conditions reveals an appalling situation. Delegates to a conference of British miners, held in London, report that conditions are steadily growing worse both for the workers and the industry generally.

The owners' mad competition for world trade and between district and district now includes the districts themselves.

Weaker coal companies have gone down and stronger concerns are engaged in a death struggle. The result is a falling of prices, lowering wages and increased unemployment.

Last year's defeat of the miners has proven a boomerang and Britain confronts a crisis that the miners predicted times without number.

American miners have repeatedly called attention to the same precipice toward which coal owners in this country are rushing. The miners point to the same disasters that will follow wage cutting here.

The British coal situation should teach a lesson to everyone. The ills of industry cannot be solved by systems now enforced across the Atlantic.

American coal owners must voluntarily accept this fact or the logic of events—including bankruptcy for many—will compel them.

Industrial statesmanship does not consist of locking the stable after the horse has disappeared.

STRUCK COAL COMPANY WANTS EMPLOYES' AID

Pittsburgh, June 25.—Miners in this district are warned against purchasing stock of the Pittsburgh Coal Company. This concern repudiated its agreement with the United Mine Workers and is attempting to operate on the anti-union basis.

The warning is issued by Philip Murray, international vice president of the United Mine Workers, and P. T. Fagan, president of District No. 5.

The company promises 5 per cent interest to stock purchasers with an additional pledge that employes can get their money whenever needed.

"This is the most misleading statement yet attributed to the Pittsburgh Coal Company since the beginning of the present strike," the unionists say. "An analysis of the company's record during the past two years should be sufficient to convince an ordinary observer that the company is in desperate straits. It needs the money and is resorting to the old gold brick game."

The company lost $4,000,000 since August, 1925. Common stock dividends have not been paid and for two years dividends on $35,000,000 worth of preferred stock have also been passed. The unpaid preferred dividends total $4,200,000. This charge must be met before common stockholders are considered.

RED "BORERS-FROM WITHIN" KNOWN AS "WHITE-ANTERS"

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, June 25.—The Australian Worker, in a leading editorial, calls on trade unionists to resist the "white-anting" tactics of Communists.

"The Communists must be fought by organized labor, and more particularly the sneak Communists who deny their Communism and seek to gain by craftiness and dissimulation what they could never attain by propaganda," says this labor paper.

The Australian Workers' Union, the largest and most influential trade union in Australia, is the target for the Communists.

"If other alert labor bodies," says the Australian Worker, "will join forces with the A. W. U., it is ready now, as it always has been, to play its part in a militant campaign to keep the labor movement free from disintegrating elements—to preserve it from schemers and conspirators to whom it is only a medium for the advancement of alien principles and pernicious ambitions."

New Zealand is also confronted by the Communist disruptors. They are charged by Robert Semple, president of the Dominion Labor Party, with plotting to destroy that labor movement.

"In order to do this more effectually," he said, "they seek to steal into labor organizations by disguising their intentions. By this policy of 'white-anting' they hope to bring about the collapse of trade unions so as to exploit the resultant suspicion and ill will in favor of desperate policies, sabotage and civil war."

LAW LAXITY CAUSES 97 DEATHS; STATE MINE OFFICIALS BLAMED

Wheeling, W. Va., June 25.—The Wheeling Intelligencer, leading newspaper in this State, fires an editorial broadside at the criminal incompetency of State officials that resulted in the death of 97 workers at the Everettsville mine last April.

"If the constituted authorities of West Virginia, whose sworn duty it is to enforce the law, would enforce the law," says the Intelligencer, "there would not be so many opportunities for self-advertising heroics and spectacular displays of executive sympathy, but there would be far fewer homes robbed of the bread winner and far fewer widows and orphans.

"It is also worthy of notice that, in some of these explosions, studied attempts have been made to create the impression that the mines were blown up by anarchists or labor agitators. This propaganda was played heavily in the Everettsville disaster. Full investigation of these charges, however, has shown that there has not been the slightest evidence of anything of this kind, or even any well founded suspicion of it.

"On the other hand, our State and private mine experts have agreed that these killings were entirely due to failure on the part of the mine management to obey the plainly written law, even after repeated warnings. It has also been clearly proved that this fatal disregard for the law and common safety precautions was with the full knowledge and consent of the managements of the mines.

"In view of these discoveries, the tawdry melodrama that has been played in connection with these mine catastrophes by public officials is wholly disgusting, and nothing else. It is high time for the decent-thinking people of West Virginia to demand action instead of sobs, and ordinary law enforcement instead of cheap posing."

TRICKY BOOKKEEPING TO COVER STRIKE LOSS

Pittsburgh, Pa., June 25.—An unnamed official of the anti-union Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation says this concern will show a deficit this year, but if a "satisfactory" wage scale can be established, the loss will be considered as capital investment.

Tricky bookkeeping to conceal strike losses is also used by the Pittsburgh Coal Company, another concern that repudiated its agreement with the United Mine Workers.

The latter concern lost more than $3,000,000 the last two years and is issuing additional common stock for "plant improvements."

OUTLAW THIRD DEGREE

Ottawa, Ontario, June 25.—The Supreme Court of Canada disapproved third degree methods by the police in granting a new trial to an illiterate Indian who is accused of murder.

THE HISTORIC TWINS

Reaction and revolution are historic twins.

When trade unionists would improve conditions they are confronted by autocratic employers and Communists. The former is openly antagonistic. The latter assume a friendly pose.

The twins have the same immediate objective—destruction of trade unionism. Their final objectives—a workers' autocracy versus a capitalistic autocracy—differs, but this is submerged before their common enemy.

Reaction knows that a well-organized trade union diffuses democracy and holds every gain. Tomorrow it asks more.

To check this spiritual and material advance, Communists are useful. They paint pictures of future days. Their tactics vary in each locality to detract workers' attention from such practical problems as higher living standards and protection of life and limb.

These are nothing as compared with the "glorious future" when the Communist "Commonwealth" is led by the few.

Reaction understands the game. So do the handful of Communists who work behind the scene.

The historic twins are inseparable in every test.

Trade Union Criticism Is Ancient; Public Again Handed "Old Stuff"

New York, June 25.—"Old stuff" is the reply of Harry Lang, writing in Justice on the charge of the New Republic that the American labor movement needs new ideals.

Justice is the official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The New Republic claims to be an interpreter of progressive movements.

The New Republic writer acknowledges that the labor movement is confronted by a capitalist oilgarchy, but "the labor movement is needed as a force that would widen the ramifications of modern industry and of modern industrial society."

"All this would have sounded a great deal more convincing," says Mr. Lang, "but for the fact that we have heard similar criticism of the self-same labor movement in the days when that movement, according to the writer, was truly a 'social movement.' Good heavens, how familiar all this sounds!

"The advice to labor is the viewpoint and the goal of the labor movement today. It is the sum and substance of nearly every public speech and statement made by William Green, who speaks for that movement today; it speaks through the editorial columns of the worthwhile labor press, and it is, on the whole, subscribed to by the very same leaders of American labor whom the New Republic would have abdicate to make room for 'new leaders'—from somewhere. It is not mere lip service, either, but it is a conscious attempt to eventually reconstruct industry for social and not for private profiteering purposes.

"To sum up: The positive side of the New Republic article adds no ammunition to the labor movement's arsenal. Its negative side is old, dreadfully old. Castigations of this kind had been hurled at the labor unions for several decades by socialists and radicals of every hue and variety, and by bourgeois intellectuals in no less a degree.

"To such of its critics as continually upbraid the trade unions for lack of 'creative ideas,' the trade unions themselves might suggest a little more 'creativeness' in their criticism. As it is today this criticism runs the risk of being labeled unpardonably stale, almost archaic."

40-HOUR WORK WEEK CAN GIVE ALL NEEDS

Washington, June 25.—America's greatest achievement in the last 40 years is "our enlarged capacity to produce the materials of livelihood," said Dr. John A. Ryan, D. D., in an address to the Catholic University graduating class.

"Our capacity to produce has so far outstripped our ability to get goods consumed that we are in constant danger of overproduction and industrial depression," said Dr. Ryan.

The speaker declared that a 40-hour work week would supply every comfort and convenience required by the American people if production and distribution were better organized.

Dr. Ryan told the students that they had come into "a glorious heritage of knowledge, power and opportunity," but, he said, "there is another side to the picture. As we survey the economic life of our time, we find a low standard of business ethics. While many of the crude and obvious dishonesties have gone out of fashion, other unfair methods have been devised for outwitting competitors and taking advantage of neighbors. We behold great abuses of economic power, legal favoritism, economic privilege, subtle forms of deception, misrepresentation and graft. Everywhere men are striving to amass wealth through profitable 'deals' rather than through productive labor."

Employers Watch Every Detail In British Anti-Union Proposal

London, England, June 25.—The government's anti-trade union bill does not include a provision that no strike, regardless of cause, can be called until the union takes a ballot. The last conference of Conservative Party leaders made this demand, but it has been quietly overlooked by the Conservative government.

"The reason for the failure to include this demand is that if you have a ballot before a strike then you have to ballot before a settlement," says Ernest Bevin, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

"This is why employers rushed to the government with hands up raised in horror at the prospect of all settlements being subject to ballot. Apparently, these wretched trade union leaders have a moral influence in settlements and exercise a moral authority with the members in difficult periods, which is essential; but the same trade unionists, when it comes to other matters, are to be made outlaws."

Secretary Citrine of the British Trade Union Congress shows that the bill would make one law for trade unionists and another law for the lawyers.

"In the Lawyers' Union, which is the strongest union in the world," said Secretary Citrine, "if a person is expelled for violation of rules and conditions, this action is upheld by the courts, even though a man's livelihood is taken from him. But in the case of a member of a trade union who is expelled for violation of rules and his obligation, under the anti-union bill he is protected. He may also sue the union for damages and compensation."

LABOR COMBS ENGLAND AGAINST VICIOUS BILL

London, England, June 25.—Trade unionists in many sections of England are conducting a house-to-house canvass against the government's anti-trade union bill. Literature is distributed and the government and the bill are attacked at every street corner and in every home. Organized workers predict that this policy will be extended until it reaches from Land's End in the south of England to the most northerly point. The campaign has revived trade unionism as unorganized workers realize their danger if the unions are swept from the industrial field.

The National Conference of Labor Women announce that their propaganda week of 1927 has been extended to a month and that the one issue will be opposition to the bill.

At a mass meeting in Portsmouth, Holford Knight, well-known attorney, said:

"All the suggestions and proposals to hamper and restrict the industrial and political activities of trade unions that had been collected in the Tory dust bin for a generation are contained in the bill."

OHIO LABOR STATUTE TO FACE COURT TEST

Cincinnati, June 25.—The Federal court has granted a writ of error against a refusal of the Ohio State Supreme Court to review a decision by the Ohio State Industrial Commission in the case of a Cleveland contractor who was assessed 50 per cent of the compensation award for failing to comply with safety laws.

Under the State constitution the Ohio Industrial Commission can assess damages in favor of the estate of a deceased workman to the extent of 50 per cent in excess of the usual award where the commission finds that the contractor has not complied with Ohio laws that provide for safety devices.

The contractors object to this penalty. They also allege that the construction of the law by Ohio courts has deprived them of an impartial hearing and that the constitutional amendment gives all the rights of action to employes and no corresponding rights to employers.

WORLD NAVAL CONFAB CONVENES IN GENEVA

Washington, June 25.—The international naval limitation conference, called by President Coolidge, is in session at Geneva. The purpose is to consider limitation of battle cruisers, destroyers and submarines. The United States, Great Britain and Japan have official delegates. France and Italy have representatives on the side lines watching developments.

The conference has developed many cross currents. Great Britain opposes the submarine, as this weapon threatens her control of the Seven Seas. The submarine is favored by the United States and France, but the former nation agrees to abandon the submarine if a universal agreement to this effect can be secured. This seems out of the question.

Great Britain suggests a reduction in the size of cruisers, which the Washington disarmament conference, called by President Harding, fixed at 10,000 tons. The United States opposes this plan, as many British merchant and passenger vessels are built so that they can be quickly changed to armed cruisers. It is also pointed out that Britain's numerous naval bases throughout the world makes it unnecessary for her battle cruisers to make long voyages before they are provisioned.

The United States representatives urge that the Washington disarmament plan of 5-5-3 for battleships be extended to other war craft. Japan has repeatedly expressed opposition to allowing her only three battleship tonnage while the ratio of the United States and Great Britain is five. It is possible Japan takes this position for diplomatic trading purposes.

FOOD COSTS ARE HIGHER

Washington, June 25.—An increase in retail food prices for the period between April 15 and May 15, this year, is shown by the index issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Increases were recorded in 40 of the 51 cities reporting. Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, Rochester, St. Paul, Salt Lake City and Seattle led with a 3 per cent increase.

WANT HIGHER WAGE

Buffalo, June 25.—The convention of the Switchmen's Union of North America authorized officials to co-operate with officials of other standard railroad organizations in preparing joint demands for wage increases. The switchmen ask for an approximate increase of $1 a day.

FRANK HAYES ON FIRING LINE

Pittsburgh, June 25.—Frank J. Hayes, former international president of the United Mine Workers, is representing that organization in this district.

LINCOLN J. FIELDING PASSES

Oxnard, Cal., June 25.—Lincoln J. Fielding, former general vice president of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, died here after a short illness.

RAIL MANAGERS EVADE ARBITRATION METHOD

Washington, June 25.—"It is almost impossible to obtain a consideration of a wage question solely upon the record made in an arbitration case, because matters outside the record, including general and uninformed public opinion, always seem to affect the judgment of those to whom a particular question is submitted."

This criticism of arbitration and the new Federal mediation law, is included in a dissenting report by Vice President Goff of the Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, sitting as an arbitrator in the wage case of firemen in the southeastern territory.

The award was 35 and 40 cents a day. The workers asked for $1 and $1.25 a day.

"These increases," said Mr. Goff, "furnish a disheartening example of the weakness of arbitration as a means of procuring just compensation for wage earners."

The minority report declares that the firemen are underpaid, that the average tractive power of engines has increased 80 per cent and that the revenue tons per train has increased 100 per cent, that profits of the roads are enormous, that none of the workers' claims were refuted and that the managers declined to produce records to support their claims.

"The inaccuracy and misleading character of the major exhibits of the carriers, as revealed under cross examination, appeared to one familiar with the transportation industry, that it seemed at the end of the hearing that the carriers had made no effective defense," said Vice President Goff.

UNENFORCEABLE LAWS WEAKEN GOVERNMENTS

London, England, June 25.—"The most damaging criticism of the government's anti-trade union bill is that based upon its impracticability," says W. A. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions. This organization is an insurance body, composed of unions generally affiliated to the British Trades Union Congress.

"To add laws to the statute book which cannot be enforced is the worst form of public policy," said Mr. Appleton. "Such laws are like wooden guns—contemptuous in a pageant and useless in a fight. Threats that cannot be made effective and penalties that cannot be imposed, are the stock in trade of impotent men and weak governments.

"No one wants a weak governmen, for a weak government always oppresses the helpless."

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES

Brockton, Mass., June 25.—A wage increase of 5 cents an hour has been secured by organized carpenters. The new rate is $1.15.

WORKERS DEFRAUDED; THEIR WAGES NOT PAID

Washington, June 25.—Defrauding workers through the failure of employers to pay promised wages is widespread, reports the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. The fraud is intentional in many cases.

State labor offices, though in many instances without specific authority to do so, are trying to assist workers in collecting unpaid wages. The amount collected in 16 States last year totaled $1,216,000.

FUR WORKERS ELECT

Washington, June 25.—The convention of the International Fur Workers' Union elected a new corps of officials.

Philip Silberstein was chosen president; Harry Begoon, secretary-treasurer, and Charles Gmeiner, Frank Lucchi, Philip Silberstein and I Winnick, delegates to the A. F. of L.

ELECTRICAL STRIKE ENDS

Newark, N. J., June 25.—Electrical Workers' Union No. 52 ended their three-weeks' strike on securing a three-year agreement.

Labor's Social Ideals Upheld; Churchmen Stand With Workers

New York, June 25.—"The labor movement is the self-conscious organized expression of the workers' struggle for a more abundant life," says the Commission on the Church and Social Service of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America in its Labor Sunday message to affiliated churches.

"The church and labor hold many common ideals," the churchmen declare. "The social ideals of labor rest upon the essentially religious principles of service and sacrifice, of creative work, of brotherly friendliness and of social justice. In support of these common ideals, labor and the church stand together.

"On this Sunday, devoted to the cause of labor, it is appropriate for every church to reaffirm its support and allegiance to the common moral issues to which both labor and religion are committed.

"The church holds that human personality is sacred and opposes all forms of exploitation and human degradation. It protests against the employment of children of tender years in denial of their right to growth and education, and the employment of men and women for over-long periods of labor. It stands for the payment of wages sufficient both to sustain and to enhance life, the right of workers to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing and protection against unemployment and occupational accidents and diseases.

"Unceasing concern for the lot of the workers, their wives and children, is the inevitable expression by the churches of that love which caused Christ to turn to the multitudes and to become the passionate advocate of their welfare.

"It is impossible for the church of Christ to devote itself passionately to the welfare of the masses of the people and not to have sympathetic relations with organized labor."

CARPENTERS EXPOSE UNFAIR LABOR INJUNCTION

Chicago, June 25.—Organized carpenters proved the unfairness of the injunction process in industrial disputes when the Appellate Court, in a divided opinion, refused them relief from the operations of the Citizens' Committee to Enforce the Landis Award.

The court held that the unionists are guilty of misconduct toward non-unionists and several contractors, and therefore do not come into court with "clean hands."

The judges agreed that the conduct of the Citizens' Committee has been illegal and that they have invaded rights of union carpenters.

Judge Taylor wrote a scathing condemnation of the committee. He said the record showed less than half a dozen instances over a period of four years in which the 20,000 carpenters were guilty of misconduct and that none of this misconduct was toward members of the committee.

"Is it abnormal," said Judge Taylor, "that with 20,000 resident union carpenters threatened with extinction as a series of unions, and threatened with continued unemployment, unless they accept employment on terms they consider unreasonable, there should occur in the course of over four years so small an amount of misconduct, all of which may be said to have its source, at least indirectly, in the illegal activities of the Citizens' Committee itself?

"Such being the case, would it not be a manifest injustice for a court of equity to say that the rank and file of the union carpenters of Chicago and vicinity, who are complainants, cannot be heard against the Citizens' Committee, by whom they are being continuously injured, and against whom they have done no wrong?

"The instances of misconduct towards some contractors and non-union carpenters, recited in the brief of counsel for the defendants, may seem imposing, but an analysis of the evidence discloses, as stated above, only four instances of worthy consideration, two of which occurred at least nine months before the bill was filed, and the other two failing somewhat in proof."

Judge Taylor presented this summary of the committee's illegal campaign to enforce former Federal Judge Landis' anti-union shop award:

Vast sums spent in an endeavor to carry out illegal purposes, its methods of persuasion, and its propaganda, including at all times veiled threats to contractors.

Advertisements and solicitors in other States so as to bring in carpenters amenable to its dictation.

Advancement of railroad fares to prospective employes for contractors.

Its registry system, its cards of identification, its constant surveillance of building going on and contemplated; its insurance, furnished free; its special deputy sheriffs armed as guards; its efforts to prevent collective bargaining between the Carpenters' Union and contractors; its public condemnation of union carpenters; its domination of the whole subject of union carpenters' employment.

"When it is considered that the Citizens' Committee, the defendants themselves, have been left unmolested, unattacked and allowed," continued Judge Taylor, "to pursue, as exhaustively and efficiently as possible, on a gigantic scale their illegal practices, without let or hindrance, and with the assistance of something in the nature of a private police and a publicly subscribed fund of about $3,000,000, it does not lie in their mouths to say, 'you have done nothing to us, you have caused us no temporal damage, but as you have sinned somewhat against a few non-union carpenters and contractors, which fault was caused, in least in part by our wrongdoing, a court of equity ought to refuse you any remedy against us, ought to refuse to restrain us from our unlawful and hurtful activities.'"

APARTMENT LIVING EXTENDS IN NATION

Washington, June 25.—The living trend in this country is toward apartment houses and away from life in detached or semi-detached houses, according to data compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 1921 the number of families provided for in new apartment houses formed only 24 per cent of the total number provided for in new construction that year. In 1926 this proportion had risen to 45 per cent.

In the same period single dwellings dropped from 58 to 40 per cent. Two-family dwellings also declined.

COAL MINERS ADVISED TO MEET NON-UNION RATE

Toledo, Ohio, June 25.—S. H. Robbins, president of the Ohio Coal Operators' Association, wants organized miners in this State to secede from the United Mine Workers, form an independent union and accept a wage scale based on the non-union rates of Kentucky and West Virginia.

Mr. Robbins unfolded his plan at a meeting of coal operators in this city. Ohio operators urged the competitive wage scheme at the conference with miners' representatives last spring. The miners declined to enter into this cut-throat competition with the unorganized fields.

PEORIA PRINTERS GAIN

Peoria, Ill., June 25.—The Typographical Union's new newspaper scale calls for an increase this year of 50 cents a week, retroactive to February 1. A 50-cent increase next year and in 1929 is also provided.

OPPOSE PRISON-MADE GOODS

Philadelphia, June 25.—No prison-made goods in the public schools of this city, is the edict of the Board of Education.

The Central Labor Union's opposition to convict labor competition was supported by business men.

GAIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Denver, June 25.—Organized carpenters in this city have established the five-day week.

SECRET DIPLOMACY THRIVES IN EUROPE

Philadelphia, June 25.—Civilization is menaced because the World War failed to end secret diplomacy, Dr. William E. Lingelbach, professor of Modern European history at the University of Pennsylvania, declared in his commencement address to 1,500 graduates.

"Before the World War," said Dr. Lingelbach, "the foreign affairs of every European country were conducted by a few statesmen and diplomats who not only kept people and Parliaments in ignorance, but frequently deceived them in order to win support for their policy. They made alliances in secret, spun webs of diplomatic intrigue, and then, caught in the vicious systems they had themselves created, frightened colleagues and people into ever-increasing expenditures for armies and navies until the inevitable crash came in the World War.

"But incredible as it may seem, the principle nations are still conducting their foreign relations much as before. Today after the experience of the most terrible war in history and the menace of scientific warfare in the future, secret diplomacy directed by the autocrats of different foreign offices continues."

Dr. Lingelbach called on civilized men and women of the world to get at the root of the danger and substitute the settlement of international difficulties by legal methods rather than by war.